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BG Washburn Retires



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THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
MAJ. GEN. R. MARTIN UMBARGER

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**On the Cover: Brig. Gen.
Margaret S. Washburn receiving
the Torchbearer Award.**

RETIREMENT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL MARGARET S. WASHBURN

Story by Sgt. John Crosby

Indiana's senior ranking female
general officer, Brig. Gen. Margaret
S. Washburn officially retired during a
ceremony at the 38th Division
Headquarters, CSMS 1 Building
Sunday, April 29, 2012.

Washburn served honorably for more
than 34 years as a member of the
Ordnance Corps, most recently as the
assistant adjutant general of the
Indiana National Guard.

Washburn is a graduate from the
Army War College. She earned a bach-
elor of science in psychology at Indi-
ana University and a masters of busi-
ness administration in management at
Wesleyan International University.

During her military career, Washburn
received numerous awards includ-
ing Meritorious Service Medal with

three oak leaf clusters, Army Com-
mendation Medal, Army Achievement
Medal and Army Reserve Component
Achievement Medal with silver oak
leaf cluster.

Washburn works in the community
as a national accounts manager for AL-
lison Transmission, Inc., Indianapolis.

"Brig. Gen. Washburn has not only
seen opportunities for diversity grow
in the armed forces during her service,
but has been a motivating force behind
it and an unrivaled example of why
diversity is so important," said Maj.
Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, Indiana
National Guard adjutant general.

"Certainly we are proud of General
Washburn, but just as important is the
respect and pride she holds for the
Indiana National Guard," said
Umbarger.



Photo by Sgt. John Crosby

Indiana National Guard going green

*Story by Sgt. John Crosby
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs*

Going green. The world is buzzing about these two words. What constitutes going green? Alternative forms of energy? Eliminating fossil fuels? Recycling? How realistically do these changes fit into today's modern living?

Moreover, how does going green coincide with today's military mission? After 11 years of combat and an ongoing war, what is our military doing to reduce its carbon footprint?

From shiny new solar panel fields in Fort Hood, Texas that opened in late March, to new Army hybrid concept vehicles, to the new Net-Zero initiative - adapting posts to produce as much energy on site as they use - the military is taking an overall resource-conscious posture.

"Reducing our consumption and supplementing with renewable energy reduces our carbon footprint and has a less negative impact on the environment," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Christopher Swihart, National Guard Bureau renewable energies program director. "And the more we can conserve, the lesser the burden on our taxpayers."

"Also, by leaning more toward renewable energy and relying less on the grid, our force could remain operational in the event of a power outage."

As the Indiana National Guard moves forward in 2012, incorporating the latest tactics, tools and technology into training and deployment, another focus lays ahead; to use energy responsibly and maintain the state's, the nation's and the world's ecosystems.

This is evident in changes across the state.

In northern Indiana, the Fort Wayne Air National Guard base began work to transform to a Net-Zero base. When complete, the base itself would reduce all hydrocarbon production using an aggressive, energy-reduction campaign and installation of energy efficient heating and cooling systems.

In central Indiana, leaders at Camp

Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center recognize the need to respect the environment.

To help keep Camp Atterbury clean, an approximate \$490,000 Solid Waste Management and Recycling Center was added to the current refuse collection site on the post in 2011.

"We need a safe, realistic place to train, and ensuring the sustainability of the natural environment is a key component," said 1st Lt. Jerry Hartley, environmental supervisor at Camp Atterbury."

Atterbury's 34,444 acres is home to a unique ecosystem including underground rivers and cave systems and is home to a wide variety of wildlife including the endangered Indiana bat.

"We work with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify various management practices that minimizes impacts to our wildlife as well as impacts to our training needs," said Hartley.

Camp Atterbury and Muscatatuck Urban Training Center also work to conserve resources and support Indiana's energy initiatives through the Conserving Hoosier Industrial Power Grant; a program managed through the Indiana lieutenant governor's Office of Energy Development. These posts received an initial \$2.5 million for the purchase of materials. Some items include more than 12,800 LED bulbs providing an energy savings of more than 50 percent compared to older fluorescent bulbs. Also, approximately 700 Light Emitting Plasma fixtures provide a brighter, more natural light with 50 to 75 percent less energy use, as well as other energy efficient projects.

Across Indiana, leaders are focusing on reducing energy consumption. Facilities are using technology to maximize energy usage. Nearly all incandescent lights are replaced with more energy efficient fluorescent bulbs. High-efficiency heating and cooling systems are being installed including geothermal heat pumps that use the earth's near-constant temperature to extract heat or supply cool air. Facilities are equipped with water saving electronic

faucets, shower heads and restroom fixtures.

Maintaining the balance between energy and financial efficiency takes careful evaluation. From a financial standpoint, the ends must justify the means.

"It is not a good use of taxpayer dollars to spend a hundred dollars in order to save one dollar," said State Facilities and Contracting Officer John Dunning.

"However, during our evaluation process, if a new technology makes sense then the Indiana National Guard will attempt to make use of that technology."

Additionally, under the Base Realignment and Closure program, five Indiana National Guard armories and one Army Reserves center were closed and their units consolidated into two newly constructed state-of-the-art armories, one in Lafayette and one in Johnson County. This saves on maintaining old, outdated buildings that aren't equipped with the latest energy saving technology.

Overall, treating our Indiana ecosystems with respect is the responsibility of all Indiana troops.

"We always need to be good stewards of our taxpayers and as citizen-soldiers we have a responsibility to keep Indiana clean," said Indiana National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger. "Budgets are tight, we've all seen that. Anything we can do to stretch our financial resources needs to happen to maintain force readiness."

"As a father and a grandfather, it's my hope that we can leave our Indiana facilities in better shape than we found them," said Umbarger. "That would be a legacy that I'd be very proud of."



Indiana Guardsmen participate in memorial march

*Story and Photos by Sgt. William E. Henry,
Indiana National Guard Public Affairs*

For the last 23 years the men who survived the Bataan Death March have been honored and remembered for their sacrifices with a marathon-length memorial march now held in the high desert terrain of White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

While the number of Bataan Memorial Death March participants increased to record high of 6,796 this year, the number of Bataan survivors is decreasing. Only 16 attended this year after surviving capture by the Japanese nearly seventy years ago.

On March 25, the Indiana National Guard had two teams take part in the light National Guard team category of the memorial march. The light category indicates team members are in uniform and are required to carry a water bladder or canteens.

The Indiana National Guard's two teams were comprised of Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 152nd Cavalry's Long Range Surveillance, and Camp Atterbury's team consisted full-time staff assigned to different units throughout the state.

Atterbury's team finished first at 5:12:27, and the LRS team finished second at 6:05:53.

Spc. Logan Gehlhausen, an Atterbury team member with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry, said the event was fun, but tough. He also added it was teamwork that got them to the end.

"It was pretty grueling, but we stayed together and kept pushing each other," said Gehlhausen, a Birdseye, Ind., resident. "I think all in all, we did a damn good job."

Spc. Josh Brunson, an LRS team member from Greenfield, Ind., agreed saying the course was harsh and the team worked

well together. Brunson said it was thoughts of the survivors that kept them going.

"Coming across the finish line definitely makes you feel so much better, seeing all those guys that went through that sitting there. It makes your pain feel like nothing," said Brunson.

"These guys, if they stopped their lives were taken. So basically, they ran for their lives the whole time," said Brunson. "That's what kept me motivated, and when you come around the corner and you see [the survivors], right away your pain goes away."

During World War II the Philippine island of Luzon's Bataan Peninsula was gripped by Japanese forces who took thousands of prisoners in what now is known as the Bataan Death March. Prisoners were forced to march approximately 80 miles or die if they stopped. With no food or water for the first three days, the prisoners endured hellish agony as told in many accounts of the march.

Capt. Andrew Miller, an Atterbury team member with the 38th Sustainment Brigade, said the event is focused around the Bataan Death March survivors and is grateful to be a part of the event.

"It's obviously to honor the survivors of the real Bataan," said Miller, a Brownsburg, Ind., resident. Miller said the event means a great deal to him because the survivors of Bataan are dying.

"They come out, and they shake your hand. They're more appreciative of us being here I think than anybody else," said Miller. "They're really happy that we come out to honor them and what they went through. This isn't anything like what they went through. It's just so we don't forget."



Indiana Army Guardsmen pose for a picture after their participation in the 26.2-mile trek of the Bataan Memorial Death March held at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., Sunday, March 25, 2012.



Indiana Army National Guardsmen, Sgt. Thaddaeus Sauls, Seymour, Ind., and Spc. Logan Gehlhausen, Birdseye, Ind., both assigned to Headquarters Company 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry, run during the Bataan Memorial Death March held at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., Sunday, March 25, 2012.

Hoosier firefighters return from Afghan deployment

Story and Photo by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

Soldiers of an Indiana National Guard firefighting unit have returned home to Indiana after a year serving in Afghanistan.

The Firefighting Team, 819th Engineer Detachment of Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, left Indiana April 2011 to train at Fort McCoy, Wis.

The unit deployed to Forward Operating Base Wolverine in Zabul Province, Afghanistan, to provide firefighting capabilities and safety management services at the installation located on the Pakistan border in eastern Afghanistan.

Indiana Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Karl Crist, commander, said the small, tight-knit group of seven Soldiers had a very successful deployment, an experience they would remember the rest of their lives.

"The team did a real good job, overall a real good job," said Crist. "I'm proud of the guys. I'm proud of what we did."

The unit has already completed demobilization at Fort Dix, N.J. They will complete the Army National Guard's seamless transition and Yellow Ribbon Reintegra-

tion Program over the coming months before retuning fully to their Citizen-Soldier status as members of the Indiana National Guard.



Indiana National Guard Staff Sgt. Karl Crist, Bargersville, Ind., commander of Firefighting Team, 819th Engineer Detachment, is greeted by his wife, Crystal, their son, Garrett, and daughter, Alivia, at Indianapolis International Airport, Tuesday, April 18, 2012.

Career fair helps Hoosier veterans find jobs

Story and Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tina Eichenour

Indiana's Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve organization hosted the sixth annual Operation Hire a Hoosier Veteran Career Fair at Stout Field, Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

More than 150 employers set up booths at the career fair. The career fair is a prime resource for employers looking to hire veterans and military members. Approximately 700 potential future employees visited the career fair.

Allison Transmission is a first-time visitor to the career fair, but the company is very familiar with hiring veterans, stated Rita Dobbs, a personnel representative.

"It is an honor to be invited and come over here and hire veterans," said Dobbs.

Six years ago, ESGR recognized the need to assist veterans and service members find jobs. So ESGR came up with the career fair, and it has been successful in aiding military members find employment. This year they teamed up with other organizations for the event.

"It's great to have multiple organizations get together to find veterans jobs," said Roger Wilson, a coordinator with Indiana National Guard Employment Coordination Program.

Rolls-Royce has been attending the career fair for the past six years, said Colt Caniff, senior recruiter.

"Helping our veterans find employment; heck it's the least we can do for all they do for us," said Caniff.



Indiana National Guardsmen, Staff Sgt. Riley Bennett and Staff Sgt. Matthew Isenhower, talk with a potential employer about the jobs they are offering during the sixth annual Operation Hire a Hoosier Veteran Career Fair at Stout Field, Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

TORNADO ALLEY COMES TO MUTC

*Story and Photo by Staff Sgt. Brad Staggs,
Atterbury-Muscatatuck Public Affairs*

BUTLERVILLE, Ind. – The aftermath of a tornado is a difficult thing to see. Clothes flung everywhere, vehicles overturned, and buildings lying in rubble. Luckily, Muscatatuck Urban Training Center is only playing the part of a city hit by a tornado for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's 2012 emergency response exercise, Tornado Alley.

After weeks of preparation, MUTC has taken on the look and feel of a tornado disaster area. Fire and effects are readied and old clothes donated have been strewn across the campus while mannequins stick out of overturned vehicles and collapsed structures waiting to be rescued.

On April 23, the word went out that a mock tornado had touched down at Greensburg, Ind., a city of 11,000 being portrayed by MUTC and IDHS District 4 was to respond. District 4 includes Benton, Warren, Fountain, White, Cass, Carroll, Clinton, Tippecanoe and Montgomery counties in west central Indiana.

Day one of the exercise tested the abilities of several different Indiana law enforcement, fire, emergency rescue, and National Guard agencies to work together. Firemen from Lafayette, Ind., worked alongside police units from Logansport, Ind., while a task force from Attica, Ind., manned the command and control cell, giving instructions to the emergency responders.

Mayor Robert Shepherd of Attica came to Muscatatuck to observe his Emergency Management Team in action and to see the facility itself.

"I'm thrilled with what I've seen here," Shepherd said. "Our folks are doing a wonderful job and this facility is amazing. I don't think the people of Indiana or Attica really appreciate

what's here."

Emergency responders began lining up along the roads inside of Muscatatuck early in the morning, waiting to find out where they could be the most help. They were inundated with the sights and sounds of a city in distress with victims on rooftops, smoke and fire, and impassable roads. There was no time to stop and take it all in as the responders were immediately thrown into an intense situation.

A mock explosion and fire at a local gas station caught the attention of firefighters during a rescue in a nearby collapsed parking garage, but that was just the beginning as an explosion rocked the mock oil refinery, sending the firemen to another emergency call while still handling the first two.

According to Clinton County Emergency Management Director Darrell Sanders, the IDHS training at Muscatatuck could make all of the difference between life and death.

"I couldn't be happier with what I've seen here," said Sanders who has 10 emergency responders participating in the exercise. "We've been in the classroom, but to actually get boots on the ground and hands-on experience is priceless."

Sanders said he wishes that his people received this training more than just once a year. In his dream scenario, there would be a training exercise like this every quarter.

Each individual praised the Muscatatuck facility for its realism and people, something that the Indiana National Guard and the Atterbury-Muscatatuck Complex take very seriously.

"MUTC is excited to host the IDHS training Exercise," said MUTC Executive Officer Steve Satterlee. "Our goal is to ensure the training is as real as it gets and provides the most cost effective training to our customers. The entire MUTC team really enjoys these training events."



The Indiana State Police lines up at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center April 24, waiting for instructions during the Indiana Department of Homeland Security emergency response exercise Tornado Alley.



To raise sexual harassment awareness, 250 teal balloons labeled "End Sexual Assault Now," were released at the Indiana Joint Force Headquarters in Indianapolis, Monday, April 16, 2012.

Sexual assault awareness month for Indiana Guard

Story and Photo by Sgt. John Crosby

Indiana National Guard Joint Force Headquarters hosted a sexual assault awareness seminar Monday, April 16, 2012, in spirit of sexual-assault-awareness-themed April.

"We should have zero tolerance for any type of these actions," said Indiana Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger. Sexual assault awareness is first on the general's critical commander's information report. "That is why we are here today. Let's make certain that this behavior will never, ever be tolerated in this organization."

The Army defines sexual assault as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Consent should not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Additionally, consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated or unconscious.

Veterans Affairs medical records revealed 1 in 5 women, 1 in 100 men have reported military sexual trauma to healthcare providers.

A 2006 Department of Defense study of active-duty military personnel found 52 percent of women and 29 percent of men reported experiencing offensive sexual behavior, 31 percent of women and 7 percent of men reported receiving unwanted sexual attention, 9 percent of women and 3 percent of men reported experiencing sexually coercive behavior, and 6.8 percent of women and 1.8 percent of men reported having been sexually assaulted.

These statistics lead experts to believe that many males don't report sexual assault violations when it happens to them. Overcoming the stigma can be the hardest part for

anyone, regardless of gender. Sexual assault is the highest unreported crime in the U.S., according to the FBI. In Indiana alone, estimates are that only 1 in 5 victims actually report being assaulted.

Indiana leadership continues to encourage victims to inform their supervisors of sexual assault violations. The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program offers a number of paths to choose from, all designed to protect the victim's job, status and safety, including an option to remain anonymous.

One victim who overcame the stigma came to the Indiana Guard headquarters to tell his story.

"There's too many people out there that remain silent," said Keith Morris, who travels the nation speaking about sexual assault awareness and telling his story. "It leads to destructive behaviors. It could even lead to suicide. I want to speak out to help people come forward and seek out the help that they need."

To conclude the event, 250 teal balloons labeled "End Sexual Assault Now," were released into the air in front of the headquarters building. Morris released a single, white balloon for those who have been abused but haven't come forward.

If you have been the victim of sexual assault, contact the Indiana Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program team at the numbers below, or for confidential victim assistance visit www.safehelpline.org.

To learn more about sexual assault awareness, visit: <http://www.in.ng.mil/WarriorResources/CrisisIntervention-Team/SexualAssault/tabid/869/Default.aspx>

Where wounded Indiana Guardsmen turn for help

Story by Sgt. William E. Henry

There is help available for all Hoosier service members recovering from duty related injuries.

Indiana Army National Guard, Sgt. Mitchell Nihart, a recovering wounded warrior from South Bend, Ind., said he sustained multiple, physical injuries over a period of time during his deployment to Iraq in 2007. Nihart said he dealt with his injuries during his deployment and eventually began his recovery process after returning to Indiana in 2008.

"I didn't want to be 'that guy,'" said Nihart. "I didn't want to be the guy that complained, or the guy that was at sick bay. So I just didn't worry about it. By ignoring it, it just escalates and it gets worse."

In July 2009, while attending muster at the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit in Rock Island, Ill., Nihart met with Indiana National Guard Transition Advisors who helped him work through issues after his first surgery.

Indiana National Guard Transition Assistance Advisors, Capt. Craig Cooley and Roger Peterman, have far-reaching resources available for service members of all branches to assist in the process associated with treating their injuries, recovering and receiving compensation.

Cooley and Peterman said the process can be complicated if troops don't know what to expect. That's why the team directly connects military members with the sources that will aid in their process both inside and outside of the Indiana National Guard.

"We're all intertwined," said Cooley. "We're the veteran, subject matter experts. Anything to do with veterans benefits, veterans support or anything like that."

"In this office we don't have stove pipes; we all work together," said Peterman. "We will connect them to the right source of contact so the service member or family member can get whatever help they need to resolve their problems and issues."

Nihart said along with other resources, the transition advisors even helped him start the promotion process while in recovery.

"Without their office's assistance, I don't think I would have been promoted," said Nihart. "To have someone directly involved at the state level, I thought was fairly key."

From the beginning, the advisors are there to offer advice and assistance to family members or service members each step of the way. Nihart said just having someone there assisting him when he needed help was important to him.

"They listened to me when I was angry. They listened to me when I was sad. They have listened to me when I was extremely happy, but they've always listened," said Nihart. "They've been there through this, and we've accomplished a lot."

For Army specific issues, TA advisors said reserve-component and active-duty Army Soldiers who are injured will immediately be treated in military medical facilities and receive documentation for their injuries.

Injured Soldiers who are coming from active duty are directed through the Warrior Transition Unit, an Army medical battalion based in Fort Knox, Ky., where a determination will be made on

the severity of their wounds and they will be treated.

If Soldiers get better over the course of their treatments, they may be transferred to a regional Community Based Warrior Transition Unit. For Indiana Soldiers, that regional treatment unit is in Rock Island, Ill.

When Soldiers are medically and physically fit they will return to their home unit. If not, they will be medically discharged or medically retired.

"There are two paths," said Nihart. "You either get better and go back to the National Guard, or you prepare to leave the service." The difference between a medical discharge and medical retirement is a difference of 10 percent in a disability rating. Up to 20 percent, a Soldier can be medically discharged, a rating more than 30 percent, a Soldier can be medically retired, if they are determined not fit for duty.

When Soldiers are medically discharged they may be offered a severance package from the Army, which is usually a lump sum of cash.

Peterman said some people have taken the lump sum and have unknowingly blocked themselves from any Veterans Affairs compensation. Soldiers who choose to take the lump sum of money can't receive VA compensation until the sum is paid back to the Army.

"We try to intervene with our service members when they're going through that process to make sure to determine what's the right thing for them," said Peterman. "If you're a young man and they offer you \$50 to \$75,000, or you can draw \$1,300 a month for the rest of your life, there is absolutely no comparison."

The advisors said there are currently 50 Indiana Guardsmen in Warrior Transition Units. There are 20 at the Fort Knox location and 30 at the Rock Island location. Guardsmen are dealing with a wide range of injuries and conditions.

Both advisors said they can help former service members connect with the VA and other resources too.

Nihart said he urges service members returning through the demobilization process to take their time and to make the most of the stations at the Yellow Ribbon events to ensure troops get the care they need. Nihart stressed that the transition advisors are there to help everyone.

"The program is a tremendous program," said Nihart. "They are our battle buddies. They have our back and assist us and guide us. They're also out there for our best interests."

If a service member or family member wants to know what benefits are available please contact the transition assistance advisors at 317-247-3300 ext. 85444.



Helicopter buckets fly over Shelbyville

Story and Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tina R. Eichenour

SHELBYVILLE, Ind. – Aviation Soldiers of the Indiana Army National Guard trained on firefighting skills, Wednesday, Apr. 11, 2012, at the Shelbyville Army Aviation Support Facility that will aid the citizens of Indiana and across the nation during future wildfires.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Charles Anderson, a Headquarters Company, 2-238th Aviation instructor pilot, trained fellow aviation Soldiers on the helicopter bucket. The bucket is used to deliver water for aerial firefighting. Approximately 25 Soldiers were trained including several new Soldiers and experienced crew chiefs and pilots.

“We teach people to be able to dip a bucket out of water whether it is a pool type environment, river, lake, such as that in order to take water to fires whether it be in the field, in a

forest environment,” said Anderson.

The training consisted of a morning filled with classroom instruction about the process, weight load, operation and effects of the helicopter bucket.

In the afternoon, the pilots and crew chiefs practiced the skills of operating the helicopter bucket. The helicopter crew flew to a local pond in Shelbyville to pick up approximately 4,600 pounds of water. The crew was able to fly around the pond and then dump the water back into the pond.

“It was a new experience; flying over water is pretty cool. We don’t get to do a lot of that here and being able to carry that kind of weight,” said Spc. Jordan Sturm, a crew chief in Company C, 1-137th Assault.

“It was different,” said Sgt. Thorne Martin, crew chief in Company C, 1-137th Assault. “All the training I have done thus far has been over land; being over the water and the water spraying up and everything

was just a little different.”

In the past, several were called up to react to fires at Camp Atterbury and states effected by wildfires.

“The center of the impact area started a fire that spread up on top of a hill and we put out. The day we responded to Atterbury, we were called out and were down there in two hours,” said Anderson who flew in firefighting missions in 2010.

The aviation members will use the skills to help in future firefighting operations. The crew chiefs and pilots are required to certify on the helicopter bucket once a year.

“If we do this type of training more, then the response times are better; then we can help people survive and people live instead of some bad things happening to some people,” said Anderson.

“In the air it is different. We are a very diverse asset the Army has, and we are able to do a lot of things,” said Sturm.



Indiana National Guard aviation pilots and crew chiefs trains on the helicopter bucket on Wednesday, Apr. 11, 2012, at the Shelbyville Army Aviation Support Facility and a local Shelbyville pond. The Soldiers were practicing using the helicopter bucket that would help aerial firefighting with during a natural or man-made fire.

MG Mitchell inducted into the Club of Generals

Story by Christy Ruzga, Protocol Officer

INDIANAPOLIS – A former Indiana adjutant general inducted into the Club of Generals of the Slovak Republic during a ceremony at Stout Field, May 23, 2012.

Retired Maj. Gen. Robert J. Mitchell has been inducted into the club because of his great relationship with the Slovak government. The club cooperates with civilian associations of soldiers and generals from other countries when a connection has been established with them.

It was important to Mitchell because he worked so closely with Slovakia during his time as the adjutant general from 1997 to 2001. He helped them gain membership to NATO and transition to the euro. He also helped them expand the Partnership for Peace Program, which began in 1994 to pair state National Guard organizations with Warsaw Pact countries and former Soviet Union countries. Indiana was paired with Slovakia. The program began as a joint military-to-military contact program to connect the countries of central and Eastern Europe. It is now a key security cooperation tool, facilitating contact in all aspects of civil-military cooperation.

This Slovak club was established six years ago and has 82 active members. They assemble twice a year at the board of members meeting, which is the highest body of the Club of Generals of the Slovak Republic.

Mitchell traveled to Slovakia for the first time in 1996, and he has been back 11 times since.

Current Adjutant General of Indiana, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, commented on Mitchell's involvement on the state partnership program.

"There have been four adjutant generals who have served during the period of time we have had a relationship that started with Gen. Whitaker and included Gen. Mitchell, Gen. Buskirk and now myself. Gen. Mitchell is really the one that really began to frame the part," said Umbarger.

Mitchell said the induction meant a lot to him.

"Overwhelming. I am always excited being around the Slovaks. They are wonderful people," said Mitchell.



Photos by Sgt. John Crosby

Slovakian Chief of Defense formally inducts former Indiana Adjutant General into the Club of Generals of the Slovak Republic.

BRICKS OF REMEMBRANCE

The Indiana War Memorial Foundation in an effort to improve the facilities of the Indiana War Memorial, which includes the Circle and the Memorial to the USS Indianapolis, is wanting to raise money to make the proposed improvements possible.

An example of the expenses for the War Memorial include the repairs to Miss Victory who stands atop the Circle Monument in Indianapolis, which cost over 1.25 million dollars.

To honor the Hoosier Military men from the beginning of our State's history a family or an individual may purchase a paving brick to be place on the Circle in the pedestrian walkway where the name will remain in perpetuity.

The family on any visit to the center of Indianapolis may show family members this memorial brick commemorating the individual's service to our country. We plan a quarterly

installation of all bricks that have been sold to honor the service-men.

We have a very fine DVD that provides a short overview of the War Memorial that we can make available for presentation at public meetings and will be given to donors making a significant, (\$50+) tax deductible contribution to the War Memorial Foundation.

Our Website is at <http://indianawarmemorial.org/>

Just fill out the form on the next page in and honor all of the family members from any State who have served at anytime in the military service.

BRICK FORM ON NEXT PAGE



The Friends of the Indiana War Memorials

"Bricks of Remembrance"

When men and women stand to protect our freedom and give their lives for our democracy, will we stand ready to remember their courage and strength? Will we place in time a marker of their life for us, and show the world that such heroes will not be forgotten. Your tax-free contribution can provide for generations a 'Brick of Remembrance' appropriately placed at the very center of this great State. These dedicated bricks will encircle the Soldiers and Sailors Monument at the Indianapolis Circle, providing a visible demonstration of your commitment to the fine men and women who have been the guardians of our freedom. You can contribute to the placement of as many bricks as you wish for only \$100.00 a brick which includes the individual's name, rank, branch of service and dates to be remembered. Bricks will be prepared and installed on a quarterly basis.

Please make your check payable to the "Indiana War Memorial Foundation" a 501 (c) (3) a not-for-profit foundation established to support and promote the Indiana War Memorials. Please send your check and this form to the following address:

Indiana War Memorial Foundation, 7399 N. Shadeland Ave. #141, Indianapolis, IN 46250

Please contact us through email at customerservice@indianawarmemorials.com or leave a voice message at: (317) 650-9058.

Name: _____ Day-Phone: _____

Address: _____ Evening-Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

☐ Enclosed is payment for _____ @ \$100 per brick (please attach a separate page for each brick)

☐ Enclosed is a \$ _____ donation

Please engrave brick as follows: **Maximum 3 lines (18 spaces per line: periods, commas, spaces between words, etc. count as one space.) PLEASE PRINT**

Name & Rank																			
Dates of Service																			
Branch and Any Battles																			

Each brick will be placed in an appropriate manner that is befitting the honor we hold towards our heroes and will be displayed with dignity and respect.



Joint VA/DOL Program plans to retrain unemployed vets

WASHINGTON – Starting May 15, unemployed Veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 can now apply for new benefits to cover education costs for up to one year through a joint Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Labor (DOL) program that focuses on retraining 99,000 Veterans for high-demand jobs.

“This important tool will help those who served our country receive the education and training they need to find meaningful employment in a high-demand field,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “Veterans are disciplined, hardworking, goal-oriented team members who can play a vital role in helping businesses and the economy grow.”

“Our veterans have made this nation stronger through their service, and they deserve our continued support,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. “This new program will help unemployed veterans expand their skills and compete for good jobs,” she added.

As part of a provision of the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, the Veteran Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) allows qualifying Veterans to receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the full-time Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty rate, currently \$1,473 per month.

Veterans can apply on a first-come, first-serve basis for VRAP beginning on May 15, 2012, for programs that begin on or after July 1, 2012. Assistance under this benefit program ends on March 31, 2014.

To complete an application, a Veteran will need to know his or her direct deposit information (bank routing number and account number), the name and location of his or her school, the program the Veteran wishes to pursue, and the applicable high-demand occupation.

To qualify Veterans must:

- Be 35-60 years old, unemployed on the day of application, and not dishonorably discharged;
- Start education or training after July 1, 2012, in a VA-approved program of education offered by a community college or

technical school leading to an associate degree, non-college degree or a certificate for a high-demand occupation as defined by the DOL;

- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g. Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment);
- Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program within the last 180 days;
- Not receive VA compensation at the 100% rate due to individual unemployability (IU).

Upon completion, the Labor Department will engage with participants within 30 days after their training to help them find good jobs that utilize their newly learned skills.

“We are working diligently with our partners around the country to ensure our Veterans have access to all the benefits and services to which they are entitled—especially when it comes to those unemployed,” added Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey.

“This is a true example of interagency collaboration and we are committed to the full and speedy implementation of this program to ensure the success of our veterans in the civilian labor market,” said Ismael “Junior” Ortiz, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Veterans Employment Training Service. For more information on VOW, VRAP, high demand occupations, and how to apply, Veterans may go to the website at www.benefits.va.gov/VOW, or call VA’s Call Centers toll free at 1-800-827-1000, Veterans may also access the VRAP application online at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov> through eBenefits, a joint project between the Department of Defense and VA.

Veterans are also encouraged to visit the nearly 3,000 One-Stop Career Centers across the nation for assistance from staff, Local Veterans’ Employment Representatives (LVERS), and Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists. To find the center near you visit www.servicelocator.org.

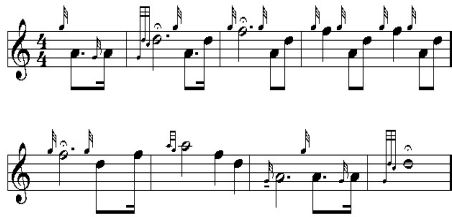
For more information about the Department of Labor’s Veterans programs, go to <http://www.dol.gov/vets/>



Department of Veterans Affairs



TAPS



SSG David Allen Frink

David Frink, age 65, died peacefully in his sleep on Friday morning May 4, 2012.

Dave joined the Marine Corp at the age of 17 and did two tours of duty in Vietnam, receiving a Purple Heart and Bronze Star with a Combat V. He continued his military career in the Indiana Army National Guard retiring as a Staff Sergeant (E-6) after completing a total of 22 years of military service.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 64, a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a member of the 2nd Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division Vietnam Veterans Association. Dave was a truly unique; loving caring and generous man butt frequently let the flip side show. He had the hugest heart and truly loved spoiling his children and his puppies. He loved gardening and especially enjoying the fruits of his labors. He also enjoyed fishing and playing poker on his computer.

SFC Donald D. Hawkins

Donald Dean Hawkins age 77 of Plainfield passed away on March 12, 2012 in Hendricks Regional Health, Danville, IN.

He was born in Indianapolis on January 17, 1935 and graduated from Ben Davis H.S. Donald married Erna Kratzert Riden-er in 1982. She survives.

He was a Marion County Sheriff Deputy for 25 + years retiring in 1997. He was a retired Sergeant First Class from the Indiana Army National Guard. Don was a member of Hendricks County F.O.P. #132, International Police Association region 26 and the N.R.A.

SFC Louis Richard Dauphin, Jr

Louis Richard "Rick" Dauphin Jr., 60, of Evansville, Ind., born in St. Louis, Mo., passed away, Sunday, February 26, 2012, at his home in Evansville, Ind.

He retired from three years of active duty service in the U.S. Army and 34 years of service in the Indiana Army National Guard 1-163rd FA BN. Rick is a veteran of Operation Iraq Freedom and an assisting soldier of Hurricane Katrina.

SPC James A. "Ronnie" Delk

James A. "Ronnie" Delk, 62, of Muncie, died Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at his home.

He was born September 9, 1949 in Monterey, TN, a son of Dorothy Ethel (Beaty) Reagan and the late Benton "Rusty" Delk.

Ronnie was a mill wright at Broderick Corp for 13 years before joining the Army National Guard where he retired from in 2002. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971. He was a member of the VFW Post 651 of Muncie, American Legion Post 299 of Muncie, and the United Steel Workers Union.

He enjoyed going to flea markets, collecting coins and collecting watches. He also enjoyed playing Bluegrass music on his guitar. He loved his family especially his grandchildren. Ronnie was a very unselfish and giving person who would give you the shirt off his back.

SSG Dennis E. "Denny" Line

SSG (R) Dennis "Denny" E. Line, 60, of Freedom, passed away at his residence Saturday, February 18, 2012. He was born in Jacksonville, North Carolina on November 18, 1951 to Karl E. and Patricia (Franklin) Line. Dennis was a former Owen County Deputy Sheriff, Spencer Police Officer, Gosport Town Marshall, Metro Police

Officer in San Antonio, Texas, and a member of the Bexar County SWAT team. He also was the owner and operator of Star Security in Texas. Most recently he was an Owen Community Schools bus driver and a clerk at Casey's General Store in Spencer. Denny was retired, after 23 years, from the Indiana National Guard as a Staff Sergeant. He was a member of the Freedom Methodist Church, Owen County FOP, Spencer American Legion and Owen County Republican Party. In 1998, he ran

for Owen County Sheriff.

SGT George F. Meltzer

George F. Meltzer, 65, passed away in Akron, Ohio. He was born Dec. 13, 1946 in Shelbyville to Richard L. and Ursie (Phares) Meltzer, both now deceased.

He grew up in Rays Crossing and was a 1965 graduate of Shelbyville High School. He attended Christian Union Church in Rays Crossing.

SGT Meltzer had formerly lived in Shelby and Rush Counties and Edgewater, Fla. He retired from the Indiana Army National Guard and was a member of the American Legion.

COL Francis D. 'Pete' Cramer

Col. Francis D. "Pete" Cramer, USAF, Ret., age 80, a life-long resident of Terre Haute, passed away in Avon, on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012. He was born Jan. 29, 1932, in Indianapolis, to James L. Cramer and Elsie Marie (Webb) Cramer. Pete retired after 40 years with the U. S. Air force and the Indiana Air National Guard.

SGT Billy Gene Wright

Billy Gene Wright age 80, of Princeton, passed away on Thursday, January 5, 2012 at Gibson General Hospital in Princeton. He was born July 28, 1931 in Lawrence County, IL



Joint Forces Headquarters - Indiana
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THE RETIRED GUARDIAN

3RD QUARTER 2012

